

## **Chief's Report**

It has been an eventful year. The excitement began early as in January I was contacted by the Federal Emergency Management Association regarding details of a grant we had submitted. By February we had been approved to receive a grant of \$675,000. This amount was tied with only a few other departments across the nation for the largest amount awarded. We were extremely fortunate to receive this. This grant was applied for to replace our 35 year old aerial snorkel truck. With the city providing the required matching funds plus a few more dollars, by July we had a brand new aerial platform truck sitting in one of our stations. This was clearly the highlight of the year.

A new HVAC system was installed at Fire Station #1. With all original equipment remaining at this 35 year old station we were recognizing frequent breakdowns and serious energy inefficiencies. The new system is more reliable and we hope to recognize a substantial savings on our energy use.

Several training sessions were conducted jointly between the fire and police departments. The classroom sessions were held at Station #2. The joint sessions proved very efficient. One of the most important outcomes resulted in increasing familiarity between the members as well as each department's operations. This benefits all when they are in the field working emergencies and we see improved performance due to increased understanding, and communications making scenes safer and more effective.

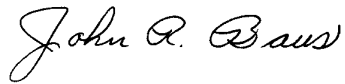
The fire department celebrated its 125 anniversary of providing fire protection to the Menomonie area in 2010. We planned extra activities and promoted the anniversary to coincide the celebration with our annual open house during Fire Prevention Week. The event was a success with tremendous attendance.

The firm that designed our new Station #2 submitted our station to a national fire station design contest. We were notified in December that we received a Notable award. A two page spread complete with color pictures featuring Menomonie's Fire Station #2 was featured with a handful of other fire stations in *Fire Chief*, a national fire service publication. Highlighted items included its functional and attractive design, energy efficiencies, and historical and local factors considered in design and construction.

Our members did a great job successfully managing a variety of emergencies. Two very special calls merit mention here. The first occurred in February when a young woman was rescued from an apartment fire under extremely hazardous conditions. The danger of the rescue was extreme enough to merit the induction of Pete Terry and Larry Zais into the Wisconsin Police and Fire Hall of Fame.

The second occurred in August when we were dispatched for a child who drowned. Four members responded with an ambulance and an engine to assist. Lifesaving measures were administered in the ambulance and while enroute to the hospital the child began breathing on his own and resumed a pulse. I am very proud of the skill and dedication of our members. They truly do make a difference.

There were many interesting and challenging emergencies our members dealt with throughout the year in addition to the many non emergency services provided on a daily basis for the greater Menomonie area. Please review the following statistical reports as well as the reports provided by each of our officers summarizing activities specific to their division. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John R. Baus". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name "John R. Baus".

Fire Chief

## **Emergency responses**

In 2010 the Menomonie Fire Department (MFD) responded to 2478 emergency responses. We are in our second year of a running schedule that sends fewer personnel to non life threatening EMS calls. This change has allowed MFD to utilize the on duty personnel in a more efficient manner. Overall this running schedule has been working well. Calls of a more serious nature automatically send more personnel to the scene. MFD units are also responding in a non emergent mode to pre determined types of calls that do not justify a lights and siren response.

## **Ladder Truck**

In 2010 the Menomonie Fire Department was awarded a federal grant in the amount of \$675,000 to purchase a ladder truck. This was one of the largest grants given out in the United States in 2010. Several members assisted in researching information for the grant application.

A committee was selected with members from all 3 shifts to design the truck. The committee spent several hours over several weeks putting together a design of what type of truck would fit our needs here in Menomonie. The committee asked several manufacturers to submit bids using stock trucks from their inventory. This would greatly reduce the timeframe to purchase the truck. Several manufacturers came to Menomonie to demo their ladder trucks. MFD personnel had each manufacturer go through the same process. We had a tough course for testing and in the end only one manufacturer met our expectations.

At the end of July 2010 a brand new Pierce 100' Ladder Platform rolled out of the factory in Appleton, Wisconsin. MFD members drove it back to Menomonie and proudly backed it into the station. This truck was designated "Ladder 4".

Extensive training was provided by the Pierce factory on operations and maintenance. Pierce sent three representatives to Menomonie to provide training to all personnel. The training was held over a three day period.



Ladder 4

## **MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System)**

The Menomonie Fire Department is part of a statewide mutual aid program called MABAS which stands for Mutual Aid Box Alarm System. We are in MABAS Division 117 which includes all of Dunn County and Durand from Pepin County. Our neighboring counties of Eau Claire and Chippewa also participate in the MABAS program along with about 70% of all Wisconsin counties.



MABAS use at the Knapp House Fire

The first MABAS alarm for Division 117 originated from the Menomonie Fire Department on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010. This call was for the Knapp House, a regionally well known restaurant. This fire went to the 5<sup>th</sup> alarm level and brought mutual aid in from the entire area. Utilized at this fire were MFD units as well as 14 Tenders (water tankers) and 5 Engines from mutual aid departments.



The Knapp House Fire

## **Station Staffing**

In 2010 the MFD changed the levels of staffing at the stations. When we have full staffing of nine firefighters we have moved one of the firefighters from downtown to the north side. The staffing levels are five firefighters at Station 1 (downtown) and four firefighters at Station 2 (north side). This change allows Station 2 to operate more independently and leaves the down town station intact to respond to the next call.

Along with this change of personnel we moved a Tender to the North Side Station. This change further enables Station 2 to operate more independently.

Currently the front line equipment that runs out of Station 2 include an Ambulance, Engine, Brush truck, Tender and the HAZ MAT unit.

Currently the frontline equipment that runs out of Station 1 is an Ambulance, Engine, Ladder Truck, Brush Truck, Tender and the Rescue Truck.

## **Ranger**

In 2008 the Rural Fire Board approved the purchase of a Ranger ATV to be used for grass fires and special rescue situations. The Ranger has a track system in place of tires giving us greater ability to operate in mud and snow. The Ranger has proven to be a valuable resource for a wide variety of responses. It has been invaluable in grass fires, snowmobile accidents and many rescue scenes.

## **Equipment Testing**

An ongoing duty of the operations division is the maintenance and testing of various pieces of emergency equipment. Annual testing of fire pumps, hose, ladders, self contained breathing apparatus and hydraulic rescue tools are examples of equipment tested to National Fire Protection Association standards. Whenever possible, on duty staff is utilized to conduct the tests. This is done primarily for cost effectiveness but also gives the staff an opportunity to evaluate the condition of this life safety equipment.

## **SOG's (Standard Operating Guidelines)**

We continue to update and review the SOG's.

Don Terkelsen  
Battalion Chief

## **2010 Year End Report for Inspections**

The Menomonie Fire Department performs fire prevention inspections on all educational, commercial, industrial, manufacturing and multi-unit apartment buildings in our response area. This includes the City of Menomonie, Villages of Knapp and Downsview and Towns of Tainter, Spring Brook, Red Cedar, Lucas, Dunn, Sherman and Weston. All structures mentioned above are inspected twice per year.

Fire Inspections are performed to assist business owners and building managers in the elimination and correction of fire hazards. Inspections are performed by thoroughly looking at all building systems (electrical, heating, plumbing, etc.), construction techniques, processes and storage of combustible materials. We assist the building owner/occupants with identifying hazards and recommending corrective action.

### **Inspection Numbers:**

	<b><u>2009</u></b>	<b><u>2010</u></b>
Total Inspections performed -----	2087	2079
Total hours inspecting -----	709	624
Total violations found -----	525	510
Total violations corrected -----	160	225
Total re-inspections performed -----	1	4
Total notices of violations issued -----	310	307

In 2010 we responded to five fires in buildings we inspect. Those included a machine on fire inside 1621 Indianhead Drive, an exterior fire on a multi-unit apartment at 702 Terrill Road, the Knapp House at 307 Hwy 12 in Knapp, an electrical fire at 1420 North Broadway and a dust collection system fire at Con Agra, 104 River Road. Damage estimates from those five fires was placed at \$1,050,000. There were no injuries or fatalities as a result of these fires.

We continue to emphasize that we perform inspections to assist the business/building owner in the elimination of hazards which could lead to a devastating fire loss.

Denny Klass  
Battalion Chief

## **Training**

In 2010, 226 classes were taught by instructors and officers to both full time and paid on call members totaling 5,090 hours of instruction. The classes covered a wide variety of topics related to fire fighting, emergency medical services, rescue and hazardous materials.

### **Hazardous Materials Technician Refresher**

All 27 full time members of the department attended a 24 hours refresher course. The majority of the hours were done on duty to reduce overtime costs. During the course instructed by CVTC personnel, students worked with various meters, equipment and computer programs. Students also spent an afternoon at an Industrial Park business working with on-site safety personnel simulating a chemical release.

### **EMT-Paramedic Refresher**

Sixteen full time members received refresher training to maintain their licensure. This 48 hour course was held at the Station #2 classroom. As happened last year a portion of this refresher training was conducted on-line.

### **Paid on Call (POC)**

The 20 members that make up our POC force received training on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. Training covered several areas including: fire suppression, water supply, ladders, ropes, tools, rescue, EMS, incident command, building construction and safety. The POC are an integral part of our operations and their training is conducted in a hands-on, scenario based environment.

### **Fire Investigation**

Fire fighter Lynn Johnson continued his investigation training by attending a two week course at the National Fire Academy and two conferences during the year. Lynn has been a great asset for Dunn County and has been called numerous times to assist the Sheriff's Department during fire investigations. Fire fighter Brady Bleskacek also attended both conferences and has taken a larger role with investigations.

## **Driver Training**

The month of July was dedicated to training with the new aerial, Ladder 4. All members spent a minimum of four hours behind the wheel driving the new ladder on all types of area roads. Along with driving, a great many hours were spent on positioning and set-up of the new ladder. Training with this specialty piece of equipment will be never ending.

## **MABAS**

The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System has been established in Dunn County as State Division 117. This system is a pre-planned, all hazards response matrix which eliminates the need for time consuming research on which assets and departments to call for assistance during large incidents. Response box cards were developed by all participating departments and used by dispatch when needed. Both full time and paid on call fire fighters have been trained in the use of MABAS. Simulated response drills run monthly and are hosted by all fire departments in the division.

## **Pre-Planning**

Two hundred training hours were dedicated to pre-planning target hazard buildings in our response area. This type of training is invaluable as fire fighter safety is stressed due to the size, location or hazards present in the structure. Building construction, apparatus placement, water supply, needed water flow, utility disconnects and collapse zones are all discussed during a pre-plan. Most often site tour or satellite imagery is used to gain a better understanding of the associated hazards.

We have seven certified State of Wisconsin fire instructors on the department. They are split up amongst the three shifts which permit the majority of training to take place on duty, thus reducing overtime costs. These instructors also teach for the surrounding Technical Colleges to maintain their certification and remain up to date on new topics.

Training continues to be the most important part of our job after responding to emergency calls.

Denny Klass  
Battalion Chief

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

The past year saw the safety division create a hazard communication program. Our program covers all hazards located in our stations. Crews can check the book for any hazards before using products and for safe handling of the product. This program was presented to all employees in 2010. This past year saw four injuries to fire department employees. On three of the injuries there was no lost time and the fourth was an aggravation of a previous injury with 8 days lost. We will continue to work towards a perfect safety record.

The fire department safety committee continues to meet twice a year to try and improve the safety of the department.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION/SERVICE**

We conducted numerous public education classes in 2010. We again worked with the schools on fire safety during fire prevention week meeting with hundreds of elementary age children. We also provided fire extinguisher training to many businesses this past year.

Our annual Open House conducted during Fire Prevention Week was a tremendous success. We combined this event with a celebration of our department's 125th anniversary of providing fire protection to the Menomonie area. Hundreds of people turned out to enjoy the day at the fire station.



Something you may not know is we are a Junior Achievement mentor site. This past year we hosted four students for the day from area schools. The students come and job shadow our crews and learn about the fire service. The crews enjoy interacting with and sharing their knowledge with the students.

We did standby at numerous events again this year which included, high school football games, fireworks, the Dunn County Fair and numerous others.

The department attended many functions during the year for education and safety events. We try to get to as many of these events as we can during the year as it is a great way to get out our message to the public. We also reach people through the web site at the frequently asked question page for people who are looking for general information.



Leisure Center's Thursday Night Thrill Seekers

John Entorf  
Battalion Chief

## **Facilities**

During 2010 we saw the long awaited upgrade of the HVAC at Station #1. Station #1 was constructed in 1975 and all HVAC equipment was original. The station is now equipped with new energy efficient gas furnaces and radiant tube heating. We moved from a large roof mounted air conditioning unit to two small home air conditioning units. We also had new doors installed in Station #1. Not only do the new doors look good but I am sure we will be able to see a cost savings with the new energy efficient furnaces and cooling systems. With the roof being replaced in 2009 the only thing left to upgrade is the windows and the station will be brand new.

John Entorf  
Battalion Chief





Ron Kind presenting grant check for Ladder 4



Cleaning out the hydrants after the big snow



Larry & Pete with their Hall of Fame plaques



Andres (billing company) giving us some training



Training at Industrial Sand Co.

## **EMS / Technical Services**

### **EMS Billing**

Andres Medical Billing out of Illinois continues to perform the EMS billing duties for MFD. Our goals of going to a paperless system, has almost been achieved. A large majority of our EMS records are now stored electronically and this has saved on storage space and cost.

As in previous years, numerous EMS forms have been revised and updated to meet current standards. Andres Medical Billing provided training for each shift on September 29, 30, and October 1. The training consisted of current updated forms and proper documentation for patient care reports. Our goal is to have an accurate patient care report that allows us to collect a larger percent of the billable income.

### **National Registry and Refreshers (continuing education) Administrative duties**

Throughout the year, personnel conducted hundreds of continuing education hours to fulfill the National Registry requirements. In 2010 thirteen personnel at MFD had their National Registry EMS licensure renewed. Along with the continuing education hours, ten Medics completed a 48 hour EMT-Paramedic refresher taught by CVTC at Station #2. All this EMS training helps meet the EMS training requirements mandated by the State of Wisconsin and the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. We are continually looking for ways to improve our EMS training and skills. In 2010, we had a PALS (Pediatric Advanced Life Support) class that was taught by CVTC at Station #2 for the entire department. This course was a refresher that is needed every two years to maintain certification in PALS.

## **EMS**

During 2010, several EMS protocols were updated or revised to meet current medical standards. We continue researching the updating of our format for all protocols. This area of EMS is continually being updated with changing medical standards. It is our goal to stay current with all changes and to make the appropriate changes to the EMS protocols.

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Shawn Swaenepoel from RCMC became the new MFD Medical Director. This position had previously been held by Dr. Rosas. After numerous years holding this position, Dr. Rosas believed it was time for him to step down and to allow someone else to hold the position. MFD thanks Dr. Rosas for his numerous years of medical direction.

Dr. Swaenepoel is currently working with MFD to update and add new medical protocols. We are learning each other's philosophies and look forward to having a very successful working relationship.

## **IT Department**

The Information Technology department has been very helpful with ongoing issues regarding our computerized patient care reports. They have been able to troubleshoot problems and also helped establish methods of sending information electronically. The IT department has been very willing to help MFD with issues we have experienced in the past year.

## **Joint Blood Borne Pathogen Training**

On December 16, 20, and 21 the Menomonie Fire Department and the Menomonie Police Department partnered up for a joint blood borne pathogen class. OSHA requires specific agencies to provide blood borne pathogen training to employees on a yearly basis. The training consisted of hazards in the work place, disease recognition, and precautions to help eliminate exposures. All the MFD and MPD personnel were divided into three groups and each group attended one of the scheduled days. The classes were located at MFD Station #2 with each class being about 2-3 hours. Each session was taught by Fire Department personnel.

This joint training was a benefit for both agencies. It helped eliminate overtime cost, maintain staffing in the City, and provided flexibility for the class schedule. Most of all it allowed the two departments to learn together and to share experiences. Interaction like this is always good because it allows the staff to become more familiar with each other and to build upon our positive working relationship. We look forward to more joint training exercises in the future.

## **Task Force**

This is the first year since the team has been established that training was not completed at Volk Field. The reason for no training was budget cuts and lack of additional funding at the State of Wisconsin. The status of the Task Force team is in question. With all the training completed and knowledge gained, we hope to have the opportunity to continue this very valuable training.

In the previous years, ten MFD members that are part of the Wisconsin Task Force 4 completed refresher training at Volk Field. Each member spent three days training with fire department members from around the State of Wisconsin refreshing their technical rescue techniques and skills. This refresher training was made to be as realistic as possible. All this refresher training was paid for by grant money provided by the State of Wisconsin.

Task Force 4 is a specialized rescue team that is comprised of 60 members from this area of the State. This team could be mobilized in the event of a natural disaster or an act of terrorism. The knowledge and skills that the MFD members have acquired from the Task Force training has been very valuable to the entire department and community.

In 2010, MFD was able to replace some technical rescue equipment that was past its useful life. The City of Menomonie and the Rural Board made an agreement to split the costs on ten new rescue harnesses and thirty new carabiners. This was much needed equipment that replaced items that were fifteen or more years old.

Andy Benrud  
Lieutenant

## **EMS OPERATIONS**

Menomonie Fire/Rescue responded to 1,910 EMS incidents in 2010 with 272 engine assists for additional staffing.

Dr. Steven Rosas has resigned as our medical director. Many thanks for his help over the many years of his support. Dr. Shawn Swaenepoel from Red Cedar Medical Center has taken over this position. We look forward to working with Dr. Swaenepoel and his ideas for improving the service we provide to our patients.

The department continues to maintain three Advanced Life Support ambulances and four Basic Life Support engines. Medic #2 has spent some time in the body shop in an attempt to repair two cracks in the module body near the rear doors. The manufacturer currently has Medic #2 in Ocala, FL for this repair. The manufacturer has provided us a loaner ambulance to fill in during Medic #2's absence. We look forward to the purchase of replacement ambulances for the aging fleet.

Red Cedar Medical Center (RCMC) remains a "Critical Access" facility. This leads to a large number of interfacility transfers to more appropriate medical facilities for treatment.

Menomonie Fire/Rescue participated in two Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) drills in conjunction with RCMC in the past year. It is a state requirement of all EMS providers. In the past year the two mock disasters, a roof collapse in a gymnasium and numerous injuries resulting from rapid evacuation of the bleachers at a football game proved to be very beneficial to our service and to RCMC staff.

No injuries were reported during EMS runs in 2010. One staff member was off for about 4 weeks after surgery for repair of a knee injury, which occurred in 2009.

No incidents involving our EMS vehicles were reported in 2010.

Matt J. Simpson  
Lieutenant

## **EMS Supplies**

This is a brief summary of the EMS supply division. This includes, the major vendors used, and the approximate amount spent. I will also discuss some service upgrades that were added for 2010, at the Menomonie Fire Department.

The major vendors used when purchasing EMS supplies are Emergency Medical Products (EMP), Red Cedar Medical Center (Materials Management and Pharmacy), Zoll Medical, Bound Tree Medical, Med Alliance, and Air Gas. Red Cedar Medical Center (RCMC) is the largest vendor used combining Materials Management at a cost of 6,207.82 with Pharmacy at \$4,668.91; this includes normal saline, I.V. sets, glucometer test stripes, many drugs, and some small items. The next largest amount spent was with EMP at \$9,416.56. EMP supplies everything from airways to trauma pads. Zoll Medical is where we purchased primarily cardiac defibrillator supplies for \$5837.63. Bound Tree, is another major vendor used for various items at \$807.03. Airgas is the oxygen supplier for us at \$1298.20. We purchased intra osseous needles for initiating difficult intravenous lines from MED Alliance at a cost of \$2017.09. The total spent on EMS supplies was \$33,955.

The MFD replaced two EMS cots, with power cots. This was a large purchase of around \$23,000. We added several new back boards, to replace older back boards. The larger stock room in the new fire station has made restocking easier. We have upgraded with new shelves for the new stock room. This also saved money. These additions will improve the level of service provided to the public.



One of our new power stretchers

Chuck Mensing  
Lieutenant

## Special Events

The Special Events Division was created in late 2005. In the past, the on-duty officer would determine what events MFD would be involved in. Now I am the liaison/contact person for outside organizations. This division is better able to organize and manage personnel and equipment for special events. This provides for consistency and familiarity making the process easier for event organizers, and efficiency for the MFD. MFD is able to provide safety and or training in all special events, so it can be an enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

We have been working with local businesses, other city departments, the Menomonie Chamber of Commerce, Main Street of Menomonie, the Dunn County Fair Board, and all other area organizations to promote additional community awareness of MFD services, as well as to increase MFD's community involvement and goodwill. I will be working toward coordinating additional involvement by the Menomonie Fire Department at the local area special events, and will communicate with the on-duty officer regarding the need for staffing and /or equipment prior to these events to allow for the most efficient use of MFD's resources.

We provide standby in the event of an emergency for all types of events including the demolition derby, the rodeo, fireworks and many other events at the Dunn County Fair. The snowmobile race on Lake Menomin is another large scale event that we staff. A new event for this year was the bike race that started and ended in Menomonie, we provided EMS for the race in and outside of Menomonie. Many of these events require the standby of an emergency crew to meet safety standards or they would not be able to occur. By working with these event organizers we are able to assist in bringing events into the city for the enjoyment and benefit of our community. We work together with Red Cedar Medical Center in the "Safe Kids Day", and local schools, and UW-Stout in the production of career fairs and safety days. We also participate in several city parades. These events provide a challenge to MFD, as we work to keep everyone safe and provide EMS and fire protection for all who participate and all who observe. These are just a few of the many annual events we participate in.



Chuck Mensing  
Lieutenant